



**Missouri Department of Transportation**

**St. Louis District  
Thomas Blair, P.E., District Engineer**

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June 13, 2025

Mirela Celaj  
Director of Public Works  
City of University City  
6801 Delmar Boulevard University City, MO 63130

RE: University City  
Ferguson Avenue Sidewalk Improvements  
Federal Project Number: TAP-5402(622)  
TIP Number: 7283-24  
Authority to Advertise for Construction Bids

Dear Mirela,

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved the obligation of federal funds for the construction of this project and has issued authorization to advertise for bids. Enclosed for your use is a summary of costs obligated for this project to date. Please refer to MoDOT's Local Public Agency (LPA) Policy Manual Section 136.10 for requirements, considerations, and procedures for advertising, opening, and evaluating bids and awarding a federal-aid contract. Following are highlights of some of the various requirements:

**Construction Authorization End Date Deadline**

This project's Construction Authorization End Date is January 31, 2026, as shown on the Construction Cost Summary. The City will need to have received MoDOT's Concurrence in Award before January 15, 2026, to prevent the End Date from expiring. If the End Date expires, the City will not be eligible to receive federal reimbursement until the construction funds are reauthorized.

**Construction Engineering**

It is the understanding of this office that a consultant will provide required Construction Engineering services and the City will not seek federal reimbursement for these services.

**Prime Contractor Requirements**

Since this project involves roadway or bridge work, the prime contractor must have a fully responsive contractor questionnaire on file with the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission at least 7 days prior to the bid opening date in order for MoDOT to concur with the award of this project. This information must be included in the advertisement for prospective bidders. See LPA Manual Section 136.10.2 for more details.

**Advertising for Bids**

The advertisement and approved plans and specifications must be available to bidders at least 21 calendar days prior to the bid opening. The advertisement must be placed at least once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the area of the project. The ad must also be posted on MoDOT's website. As the placement of the advertisement on MoDOT's website is time sensitive, please e-mail me the proposed ad well in advance of the date it must be posted. I will notify you when the ad has been posted on MoDOT's website. See LPA Manual Fig. 136.10.1 for a sample advertisement.

**Bid Package and Changes**

Any revisions to the plans or bid proposal made after MoDOT's Final Plan, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) approval date, but before the plans or bid proposal have been made available to prospective bidders, must be resubmitted to MoDOT for review and approval. Any revision to the plans or bid



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proposal after they have been made available to prospective bidders shall be treated as an addendum as specified in LPA Manual Section 136.10.5.

#### **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Requirements**

MoDOT has set a DBE goal of 8% for this project. Please ensure the bidding documents that are made available to prospective bidders reflect this DBE goal. Only the work performed by approved DBE subcontractors at the time of the bid opening will be applied towards calculating the DBE goal. A comprehensive listing of all MoDOT-approved DBE firms can be found in the Missouri Regional Certification Committee (MRCC) DBE Directory, which can be accessed at: [MRCC Directory \(mo.gov\)](https://www.mrccdbedirectory.com).

The City must inform all prospective bidders that they are required to complete the DBE Submittal Form and submit it with the bid proposal or within three working days after the bid opening date. The failure of either the apparent low bidder or the second low bidder to file the completed and executed "DBE Identification Submittal", listing actual, committed DBE participation equal to or greater than the DBE contract goal percentage specified in the bid by 4:00 p.m. on the third business day after the bid opening, will be cause for rejection of that bid, and the bid surety bond or bid guaranty of that bidder will be forfeited to and become the property of the Local Agency upon demand.

If any DBE firms shown on the "DBE Identification Submittal" are not listed in the MRCC DBE Directory, then that firm's work will not be counted as DBE participation work and may be cause for rejection of the bid as nonresponsive.

#### **Wage Rates**

Federal Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rate determinations and Missouri wage rates shall be in accordance with LPA Manual Section 136.9.4.1.1.10.

#### **Bid Opening and Evaluation**

Bid Opening and Evaluation shall be in accordance with LPA Manual Section 136.10.7. Only sealed bids submitted prior to the time specified in the notice are acceptable. Bids must be opened only at the time and place specified in the notice and in the presence of a representative of the City. The City must evaluate the bids to determine if they are responsive, and to ensure that good competition and lowest possible cost was received.

#### **Requesting Approval of Low Bidder (Concurrence)**

When requesting MoDOT's concurrence of the recommended bidder, please follow requirements and checklists in LPA Manual Section 136.10.7.4.1. An e-mail including scanned PDF's of the documents shall be sent to [lpasubmit@modot.mo.gov](mailto:lpasubmit@modot.mo.gov) with an e-mail copy to me.

#### **Utilities**

All necessary utility adjustments will need to be completed prior to construction unless other arrangements have been made as documented in the City's Utility Status Certification Letter.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at [Laith.Zayed@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Laith.Zayed@modot.mo.gov) or call 314-453-1744.

Sincerely,  
Laith Zayed  
LPA Program Specialist – Design

Copy: Rachael Pawlak, Alex Hartig, and Melissa Theiss – East West Gateway